

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 039868 TOSEC 040089

70 - 62

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 EB-07 /023 R

DRAFTED BY E:DWOOD:RVC

APPROVED BY E:CWROBINSON

S/S- CABORG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039868 TOSEC 040089

TO THE SECRETARY FROM ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EAGR

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR FOOD POLICY
ACTION MEMORANDUM (S/S 7603468)

1. BILL SEIDMAN IS CONSIDERING CHANGES IN THE WHITE HOUSE COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR FOOD POLICY IN THE LIGHT OF INCREASING CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE TO ASSURE A MORE PROMINENTROLE FOR USDA IN THE FOOD POLICY AREA . BASICALLY, HE SUGGESTS THAT THE EPB AND NSC CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERALL COORDINATION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY ISSUES. THE EXISTING EPB/NSC FOOD COMMITTEE (CREATED TO DEAL WITH THE US-USSR GRAIN AGREEMENT) WOULD BE RESTRUCTURED AND GIVEN A BROADER MANDATE THAT INCLUDES BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY ISSUES. USDA (SECRETARY BUTZ), INSTEAD OF STATE AND TREASURY, WOULD CHAIR THE COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD REPORT TO THE EPB AND NSC, AND THROUGH THEM TO THE PRESIDENT. MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMITTEE WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES AT ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL OR ABOVE FROM STATE, TREASURY, LABOR, COMMERCE, CEA, CIEP, NSC AND THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

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2. I BELIEVE THAT THIS FORMULATION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE
ON THE HILL AND THAT STATE CAN ACCEPT THESE SUGGESTED

CHANGES WITHOUT LOSING ITS ABILITY TO SIGNIFICANTLY
INFLUENCE INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY.

3. SEIDMAN HAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE MANDATE OF THE
NEW EPB/NSC AGRICULTURAL POLICY COMMITTEE INCLUDE THOSE
ISSUES THAT, UNTIL NOW, HAVE BEEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF
THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD REVIEW GROUP (IFRG) WHICH YOU
CHAIR (BUTZ IS VICE CHAIRMAN). IN THAT THE IFRG'S
MAJOR ISSUE OF FOOD RESERVES HAS ALREADY BEEN DEALT WITH
INSIDE THE USG, I BELIEVE THAT THIS RECOMMENDATION CAN
ALSO BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT UNDUE LOSS OF INFLUENCE BY
STATE.

4. RECOMMENDATION:

A. THAT YOU AUTHORIZE ME TO APPROVE THE SUGGESTED
CHANGES IN THE EXISTING FOOD POLICY COORDINATION MECHAN-
ISMS OUTLINED ABOVE:

APPROVE:

DISAPPROVE:

B. ALTERNATIVELY, THAT YOU AUTHORIZE ME TO APPROVE
THE SUGGESTED CHANGES ABOVE EXCEPT FOR THE SHIFT OF
PRESENT IFRG RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE NEW EPB/NSC
AGRICULTURAL POLICY COMMITTEE:

APPROVE:

DISAPPROVE: INGERSOLL

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NNN

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